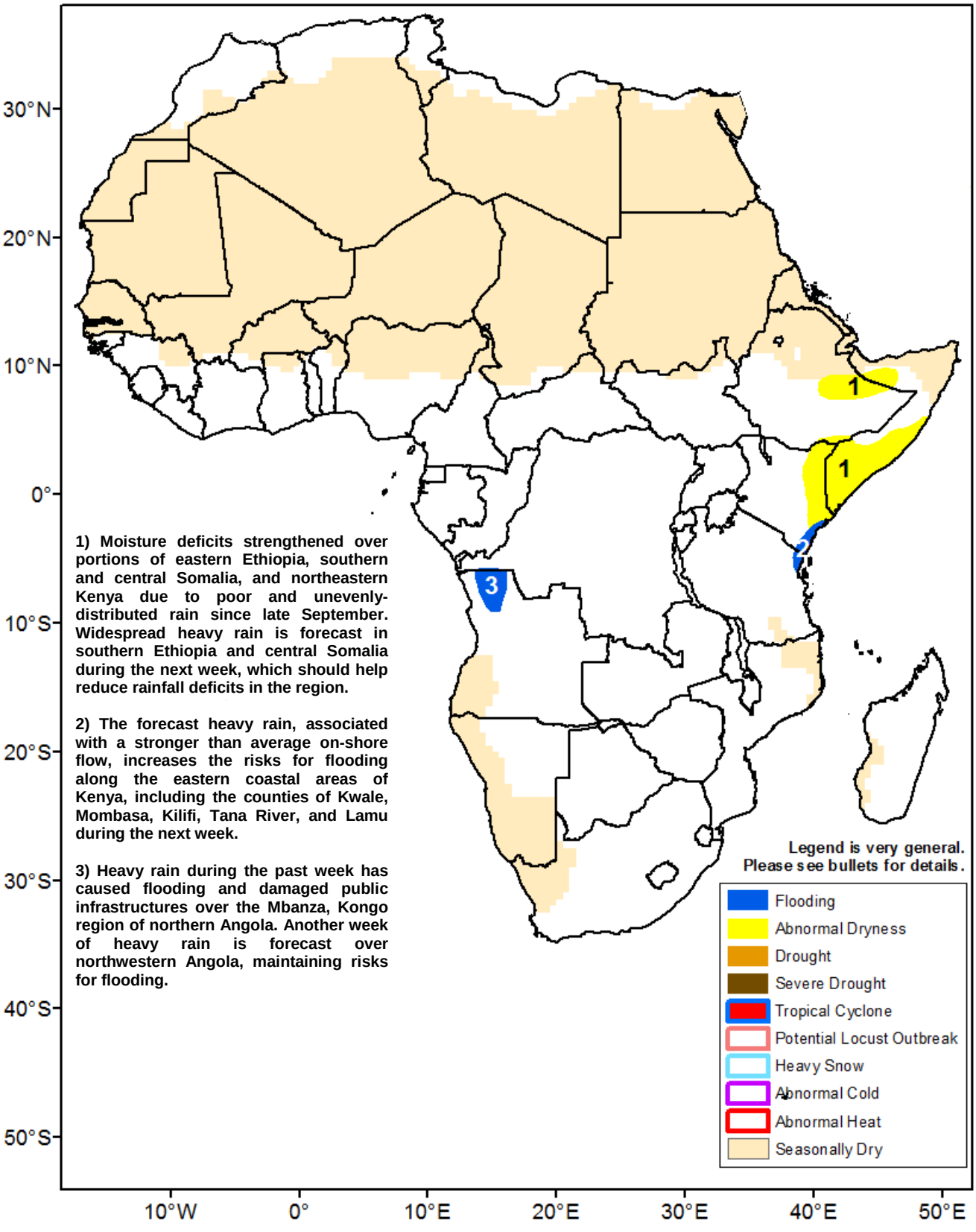
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
November 2 – 8, 2017

- **Continued poor rains maintain abnormal dryness conditions over portions of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, while forecast heavy rain could cause local flooding over northwestern Angola and eastern Kenya.**



1) Moisture deficits strengthened over portions of eastern Ethiopia, southern and central Somalia, and northeastern Kenya due to poor and unevenly-distributed rain since late September. Widespread heavy rain is forecast in southern Ethiopia and central Somalia during the next week, which should help reduce rainfall deficits in the region.

2) The forecast heavy rain, associated with a stronger than average on-shore flow, increases the risks for flooding along the eastern coastal areas of Kenya, including the counties of Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, and Lamu during the next week.

3) Heavy rain during the past week has caused flooding and damaged public infrastructures over the Mbanza, Kongo region of northern Angola. Another week of heavy rain is forecast over northwestern Angola, maintaining risks for flooding.

Drier than average conditions persist in Eastern Africa.

So far, the performance of the *Short-Rains*, October-December rainfall season has been all but favorable. An analysis of rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated an uneven distribution of rainfall, with positive anomalies over western and southern Ethiopia and western Kenya, and negative anomalies over parts of eastern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya (**Figure 1**). Some areas such as southern Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya continued to receive climatological to favorable rain on a weekly basis, while the above-mentioned dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa experienced consistent poor rain. As a result, biomass conditions as detected by remote sensing technology already started to show below-average conditions throughout the region. The most affected areas included portions of eastern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya. If deficient rain continues over the next few weeks, significant adverse impacts on agricultural, pastoral activities, and livelihoods of many people will likely be unavoidable given the relatively shortness of the rain period over many local areas.

During the next seven days, model rainfall forecasts suggest a wet weather pattern, with heavy downpours across southern Ethiopia and central Somalia. Heavy rain is also expected off-shore of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania. The forecast abundant rain could still penetrate inland, thus increasing risks for local flooding. Conversely, light rain is forecast over northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia.

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 02 – October 31, 2017

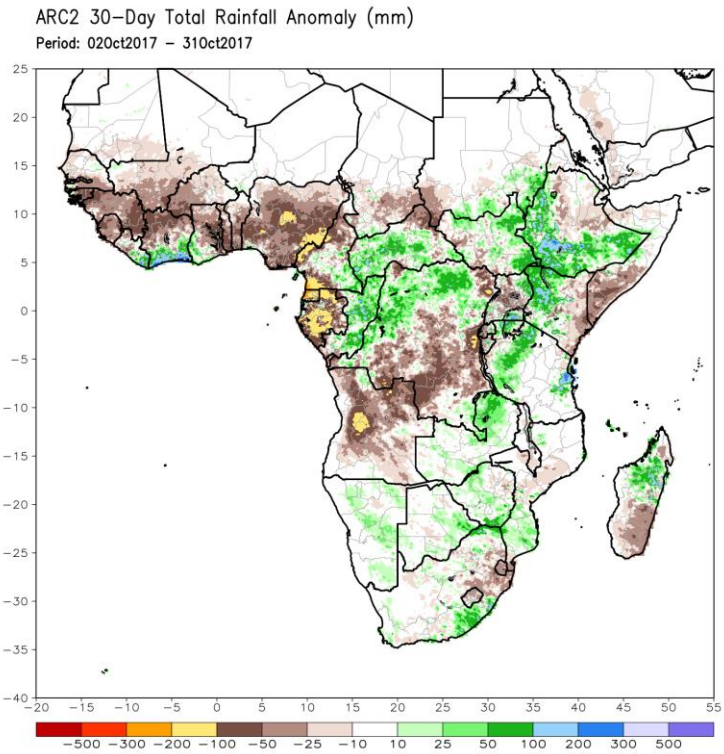


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Near to below-average rain registered over Eastern Africa and Southern Africa during the past week.

During late October, light to locally moderate rain fell in southern Ethiopia, northeastern and southwestern Kenya, and central Somalia, while suppressed rain was recorded elsewhere (**Figure 2**). The uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall over the past several weeks has contributed to strengthening rainfall deficits throughout northeastern Kenya, southern and central Somalia, and parts of eastern Ethiopia. Farther south, in Southern Africa, heavy downpours caused flooding and damaged infrastructures over the MBanza, Kongo region of northwestern Angola. Meanwhile, moderate and below-average rain fell throughout northern Angola, while light to locally moderate rain was registered over Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and northern South Africa. Moderate to heavy rain was also recorded over central Madagascar. In South Africa, limited rain was observed over the Western Cape, which might have further exacerbated dry conditions over the region. Little to no rainfall was also recorded across the KwaZulu-Natal province, where below-average rain over the past thirty days has already caused a slow green up of the veld, according to reports.

For next week, widespread and heavy rain is forecast over Angola, which should help reduce or eliminate moisture deficits in the region. Light to moderate rain is expected over western Namibia. Little to light rain is forecast across the western and eastern portions of South Africa. Elsewhere, little to no rainfall is expected.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 25 – October 31, 2017

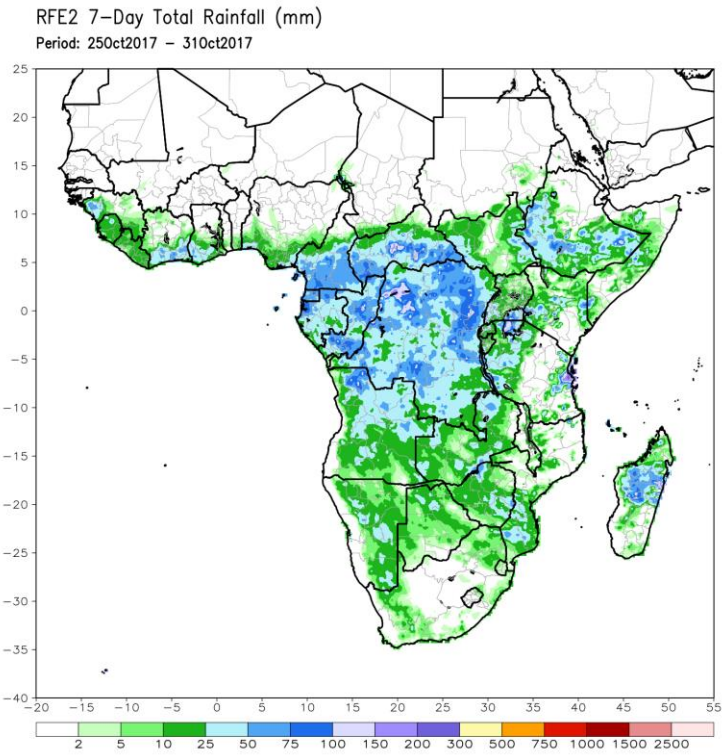


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.